



# Checklist and Seasonal Status of the Birds of Pinery Provincial Park and area

CAZON  
NR  
-7089



**Checklist compiled by Jeff Skevington, 1991**  
**Cover Illustration by Peter Burke**

**Description of Cover Illustration**

A Whip-poor-will is depicted on the cover of this guide. These medium-sized (23-25.5 cm long; 40.5-49.5 cm wingspan) insect-eaters are one of Pinery's most readily identified birds. Although seldom seen, most campers are familiar with the repetitive song of this nocturnal bird. Beginning at dusk, they repeat their name roughly every second, often for 50 to 100 repetitions. If you are observant enough to actually see a Whip-poor-will, it will invariably be sitting on the ground, camouflaged amongst the leaves.

This species has declined in numbers throughout much of its Southern Ontario range. It is still common at Pinery where its habitat of open oak forest "oak savanna", is maintained through controlled burning.

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Alfred Rider, Dennis Rupert, Tom Hayman and Dave Martin for their input into this list. Their records and comments were an essential supplement to the Park's records.

This checklist includes sightings from all areas of Bosanquet Township, Lambton County. This area forms a triangular-shaped piece of land which extends between Grand Bend, Kettle Point and Arkona. It is bordered on the northwest by Lake Huron, on the south by the Bosanquet-Warwick Township boundary and on the east side by the Ausable River. Although a small region, the area boasts a list of **311** species of birds, **124** of which have bred. Habitats range from mature beech-maple forests to Pinery's celebrated oak savanna and interdunal meadows.

During your explorations you may find species of birds that have not yet been recorded in the area or which are designated as vagrants or occasional. We would like to obtain the records of any species falling into these categories. Please contact the park naturalist at Pinery with any additional information or requests at: Park Naturalist, Pinery Provincial Park, R.R.#2 Grand Bend, Ontario, N0M 1T0, telephone (519)-243-2220 ext. 109. The naturalist will be happy to give more specific information on where to find birds in the area and the dates to expect a specified species. If birders would like to give us a copy of their daily notes, including the number of each species seen, we would be most grateful.

Several additional species found in the region have not been included in this list for various reasons. Ringed Turtle Dove and Greater Flamingo have been recorded but have questionable origins. Passenger Pigeon once occurred in the area but is now extinct.

Bird names and their arrangement follow the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, 6th Edition (1983) and its supplements. Bold lines on the checklist divide the birds into their families to make for easier reading.

## Abundance Codes

The status designated for birds in this list is current and intended as a guide only. For many species, particularly during migration, this status varies annually depending on weather patterns. Birds may also occur for only a brief part of a season, or in a specific habitat, leading the observer to believe they are less common than suggested.

Note that an asterisk ("\*") occurring after the name of a species indicates that a record exists but no written documentation or photographs have been received by park staff to verify the sighting.

- X = extirpated, but could occur again
- V = accidental vagrant - an isolated record, not expected to be recorded for several years, if ever again
- O = occasional - very few records, normally absent
- R = rare - usually present annually, but seen infrequently
- U = uncommon - present in low numbers, unlikely to be found daily without a concerted effort
- C = common - can be found daily, usually in moderate numbers
- A = abundant - found daily in large numbers
- E = erratic - numbers highly variable; may be absent in some years, abundant in others

## Breeding Codes

- 0 = no evidence of breeding
- 1 = status uncertain, possibly breeds; more information needed
- 2 = formerly bred or sporadically breeds
- 3 = breeds regularly

## Seasonal Codes

- Sp. = Spring: the period when a species is migrating to its breeding area
- Su. = Summer: the period when a species is nesting
- Fa. = Fall: the period when a species is migrating to its wintering area
- Wi. = Winter: the period when a species is over-wintering

\*Note that season references relate to bird activities, not calendar dates.

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Red-throated Loon	0	R	-	U	-
			Pacific Loon	0	V	-	V	-
			Common Loon	0	C	O	C	R
			Pied-billed Grebe	0	U	O	U	-
			Horned Grebe	0	U	-	C	-
			Red-necked Grebe	0	O	-	U	-
			Eared Grebe	0	O	-	R	-
			Western Grebe	0	-	-	V	-
			Northern Fulmar	0	-	-	V	-
			American White Pelican	0	V	-	-	-
			Double-crested Cormorant	0	C	U	C	R
			American Bittern	0	O	O	O	-
			Least Bittern	0	O	-	-	-
			Great Blue Heron	0	C	C	C	R
			Great Egret	0	R	R	R	-
			Snowy Egret*	0	V	-	-	-
			Little Blue Heron*	0	-	V	-	-
			Cattle Egret	0	-	V	-	-
			Green-backed Heron	3	U	U	-	-
			Black-crowned Night Heron	0	O	O	-	-
			Yellow-crowned Night Heron*	0	V	-	-	-
			Tundra Swan	0	A	V	U	-
			Trumpeter Swan	0	V	-	-	-
			Mute Swan	0	U	-	U	R
			Greater White-fronted Goose	0	V	-	-	-
			Snow Goose	0	R	-	R	-
			Brant	0	-	-	R	V
			Canada Goose	3	A	C	C	U
			Wood Duck	3	C	C	C	O
			Green-winged Teal	0	C	U	C	V
			American Black Duck	0	U	R	C	R

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Mallard	3	A	C	C	U
			Northern Pintail	0	A	R	U	-
			Blue-winged Teal	3	C	U	C	-
			Northern Shoveler	2	C	R	U	-
			Gadwall	2	C	R	R	-
			Eurasian Wigeon	0	V	-	-	-
			American Wigeon	0	A	R	C	-
			Canvasback	0	C	V	C	R
			Redhead	0	C	O	C	R
			Ring-necked Duck	0	C	O	U	-
			Greater Scaup	0	U	V	C	R
			Lesser Scaup	0	C	R	C	R
			Common Eider*	0	-	-	V	-
			King Eider	0	-	-	O	-
			Harlequin Duck	0	-	-	O	O
			Oldsquaw	0	R	-	C	-
			Black Scoter	0	-	-	C	-
			Surf Scoter	0	O	-	C	-
			White-winged Scoter	0	R	-	C	-
			Common Goldeneye	0	C	-	C	U
			Barrow's Goldeneye	0	O	-	-	O
			Bufflehead	0	C	O	C	U
			Hooded Merganser	0	C	O	C	R
			Common Merganser	0	C	-	C	U
			Red-breasted Merganser	2	A	O	A	R
			Ruddy Duck	2	U	R	R	V
			Turkey Vulture	3	C	C	C	-
			Osprey	0	R	-	U	-
			Bald Eagle	2	O	O	R	R
			Northern Harrier	3	U	R	U	R
			Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	U	O	U	R

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Cooper's Hawk	3	U	U	U	R
			Northern Goshawk	2	R	O	R	R
			Red-shouldered Hawk	0	R	-	R	O
			Broad-winged Hawk	0	C	O	C	-
			Red-tailed Hawk	3	C	C	C	C
			Rough-legged Hawk	0	C	-	C	C
			Golden Eagle	0	O	-	O	-
			American Kestrel	3	C	C	C	C
			Merlin	0	O	-	R	-
			Peregrine Falcon	0	O	-	R	-
			Gyr Falcon	0	-	-	V	-
			Ring-necked Pheasant	2	R	R	R	R
			Ruffed Grouse	3	C	C	C	C
			Wild Turkey	2	X	X	X	X
			Northern Bobwhite	2	O	O	O	O
			King Rail	0	-	V	-	-
			Virginia Rail	3	R	R	-	V
			Sora	3	R	R	R	-
			Common Moorhen	0	O	O	O	-
			American Coot	0	R	-	U	O
			Sandhill Crane	0	R	-	O	-
			Black-bellied Plover	0	R	-	U	-
			Lesser Golden-Plover	0	O	-	R	-
			Semipalmated Plover	0	C	-	C	-
			Piping Plover	2	X	X	X	-
			Killdeer	3	C	C	C	-
			Black-necked Stilt	0	V	-	-	-
			Greater Yellowlegs	0	R	-	C	-
			Lesser Yellowlegs	0	C	-	C	-
			Solitary Sandpiper	0	U	-	C	-
			Willet	0	-	-	O	-

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Spotted Sandpiper	3	C	C	C	-
			Ruff	0	-	-	V	-
			Upland Sandpiper	3	R	R	R	-
			Whimbrel	0	R	-	O	-
			Long-billed Curlew	0	-	-	V	-
			Hudsonian Godwit	0	-	-	O	-
			Marbled Godwit	0	-	V	-	-
			Ruddy Turnstone	0	R	-	U	-
			Red Knot	0	O	-	R	-
			Sanderling	0	R	-	C	-
			Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	C	-	C	-
			Western Sandpiper	0	-	-	R	-
			Least Sandpiper	0	C	-	C	-
			White-rumped Sandpiper	0	R	-	U	-
			Baird's Sandpiper	0	-	-	U	-
			Pectoral Sandpiper	0	U	-	U	-
			Purple Sandpiper	0	-	-	R	-
			Dunlin	0	C	-	C	-
			Stilt Sandpiper	0	V	-	U	-
			Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	-	-	O	-
			Short-billed Dowitcher	0	U	-	U	-
			Long-billed Dowitcher	0	V	-	R	-
			Common Snipe	0	O	-	R	-
			American Woodcock	3	C	C	U	-
			Wilson's Phalarope	2	R	O	R	-
			Red-necked Phalarope	0	V	-	R	-
			Red Phalarope	0	-	-	V	-
			Pomarine Jaeger	0	-	-	O	-
			Parasitic Jaeger	0	-	-	U	-
			Long-tailed Jaeger	0	-	-	V	-
			Laughing Gull	0	V	-	-	-

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Franklin's Gull	0	V	-	O	-
			Little Gull	0	O	O	U	-
			Bonaparte's Gull	0	C	R	C	O
			Common Black-headed Gull	0	V	-	V	-
			Mew Gull	0	-	V	-	-
			Ring-billed Gull	2	A	C	C	U
			Herring Gull	2	A	C	A	U
			Thayer's Gull	0	-	-	-	O
			Iceland Gull	0	O	-	-	R
			Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	-	-	R	-
			Glaucous Gull	0	U	-	U	U
			Great Black-backed Gull	0	U	R	C	U
			Black-legged Kittiwake	0	-	-	R	-
			Sabine's Gull	0	-	-	V	-
			Caspian Tern	2	U	R	U	-
			Common Tern	2	U	R	U	-
			Arctic Tern	0	-	-	O	-
			Forster's Tern	2	C	R	U	-
			Black Tern	0	O	O	O	-
			Rock Dove	3	C	C	C	C
			Mourning Dove	3	C	C	C	C
			Black-billed Cuckoo	3	U	R	R	-
			Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	R	O	R	-
			Eastern Screech-Owl	3	C	C	C	C
			Great Horned Owl	3	C	C	C	C
			Snowy Owl	0	-	-	R	R
			Long-eared Owl	0	-	-	R	R
			Short-eared Owl	0	O	-	-	R
			Northern Hawk Owl	0	-	-	-	V
			Boreal Owl	0	V	-	-	-
			Northern Saw-whet Owl	0	O	-	-	O

SPECIES			Br	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
		Common Nighthawk	3	C	C	C	-
		Chuck-will's-widow	0	-	V	-	-
		Whip-poor-will	3	C	C	C	-
		Chimney Swift	3	C	U	U	-
		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	U	U	U	-
		Belted Kingfisher	3	U	U	U	R
		Red-headed Woodpecker	3	C	U	U	R
		Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	U	U	U	U
		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	U	R	R	V
		Downy Woodpecker	3	C	C	C	C
		Hairy Woodpecker	3	U	U	U	U
		Black-backed Woodpecker	0	-	-	V	-
		Northern Flicker	3	C	C	C	R
		Pileated Woodpecker	3	R	R	R	R
		Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	R	-	R	-
		Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	C	C	C	-
		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	R	-	R	-
		Acadian Flycatcher	0	-	-	V	-
		Alder Flycatcher	2	R	O	R	-
		Willow Flycatcher	3	U	U	U	-
		Least Flycatcher	3	C	U	U	-
		Eastern Phoebe	3	C	C	U	-
		Great Crested Flycatcher	3	C	C	U	-
		Eastern Kingbird	3	C	C	C	-
		Horned Lark	3	U	U	C	C
		Purple Martin	3	C	C	C	-
		Tree Swallow	3	C	C	C	-
		N. Rough-winged Swallow	3	C	C	C	-
		Bank Swallow	3	C	C	C	-
		Cliff Swallow	3	R	R	R	-
		Barn Swallow	3	C	C	C	-

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Blue Jay	3	C	C	C	C
			American Crow	3	A	C	C	C
			Common Raven	0	-	-	O	O
			Black-capped Chickadee	3	C	C	C	C
			Boreal Chickadee	0	-	-	O	O
			Tufted Titmouse	2	R	R	R	R
			Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	U	O	C	E
			White-breasted Nuthatch	3	C	C	C	C
			Brown Creeper	3	U	R	U	R
			Carolina Wren	2	R	R	R	R
			House Wren	3	C	C	C	-
			Winter Wren	1	U	O	U	R
			Sedge Wren	0	O	O	-	-
			Marsh Wren	2	O	O	-	-
			Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	C	-	C	U
			Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	C	-	C	O
			Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	C	U	U	-
			Eastern Bluebird	3	C	U	C	O
			Mountain Bluebird	0	-	-	V	-
			Veery	3	C	U	C	-
			Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	U	-	R	-
			Swainson's Thrush	0	C	-	C	-
			Hermit Thrush	1	C	O	C	R
			Wood Thrush	3	U	U	U	-
			American Robin	3	A	C	A	U
			Varied Thrush	0	V	-	-	-
			Gray Catbird	3	C	C	C	V
			Northern Mockingbird	0	O	O	-	O
			Brown Thrasher	3	C	C	U	V
			American Pipit	0	U	-	C	-
			Bohemian Waxwing	0	E	-	E	E

SPECIES			Br	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi
		Cedar Waxwing	3	C	C	C	U
		Northern Shrike	0	R	-	U	U
		Loggerhead Shrike	0	-	O	-	O
		European Starling	3	C	C	A	A
		White-eyed Vireo	0	V	-	-	-
		Solitary Vireo	3	C	R	U	-
		Yellow-throated Vireo	3	C	C	U	-
		Warbling Vireo	3	C	C	C	-
		Philadelphia Vireo	0	R	-	U	-
		Red-eyed Vireo	3	C	C	C	-
		Blue-winged Warbler	3	U	R	R	-
		Golden-winged Warbler	3	R	R	R	-
		Tennessee Warbler	0	C	-	U	-
		Orange-crowned Warbler	0	R	-	R	V
		Nashville Warbler	0	C	O	U	-
		Northern Parula	0	R	O	O	-
		Yellow Warbler	3	C	C	C	-
		Chesnut-sided Warbler	1	C	R	C	-
		Magnolia Warbler	1	C	O	C	-
		Cape May Warbler	0	C	-	U	-
		Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	U	-	R	-
		Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	C	U	C	R
		Black-throated Green Warbler	1	C	O	C	V
		Yellow-throated Warbler	0	V	-	-	-
		Blackburnian Warbler	0	C	-	C	-
		Pine Warbler	3	C	C	U	-
		Prairie Warbler	2	R	O	R	-
		Palm Warbler	0	C	-	C	-
		Bay-breasted Warbler	0	C	O	C	-
		Blackpoll Warbler	0	U	-	U	-
		Cerulean Warbler	3	R	R	-	-

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Black-and-white Warbler	2	C	R	U	-
			American Redstart	3	C	C	C	-
			Prothonotary Warbler	2	O	O	-	-
			Ovenbird	3	C	C	U	-
			Northern Waterthrush	3	U	R	U	-
			Louisiana Waterthrush	3	R	R	-	-
			Kentucky Warbler	0	V	-	-	-
			Connecticut Warbler	0	R	-	-	-
			Mourning Warbler	3	U	R	R	-
			Common Yellowthroat	3	C	C	C	-
			Hooded Warbler	0	O	O	O	-
			Wilson's Warbler	0	U	-	U	-
			Canada Warbler	1	C	O	U	-
			Yellow-breasted Chat	0	V	-	-	-
			Summer Tanager	0	V	-	-	-
			Scarlet Tanager	3	C	C	C	-
			Western Tanager	0	V	-	-	-
			Northern Cardinal	3	C	C	C	C
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	C	C	C	V
			Indigo Bunting	3	C	C	U	-
			Rufous-sided Towhee	3	C	C	C	O
			American Tree Sparrow	0	C	-	C	C
			Chipping Sparrow	3	C	C	A	O
			Clay-colored Sparrow	0	-	O	-	-
			Field Sparrow	3	C	C	C	R
			Vesper Sparrow	3	C	C	C	-
			Savannah Sparrow	3	C	C	C	V
			Lark Sparrow	0	V	-	-	-
			Grasshopper Sparrow	3	R	R	-	-
			Henslow's Sparrow	0	V	-	-	-
			Le Conte's Sparrow*	0	-	-	V	-

## SPECIES

Br Sp Su Fa Wi

			Sharp-tailed Sparrow*	0	-	-	V	-
			Fox Sparrow	0	C	-	U	-
			Song Sparrow	3	C	C	C	U
			Lincoln's Sparrow	0	U	-	U	V
			Swamp Sparrow	3	C	C	C	U
			White-throated Sparrow	0	C	O	C	R
			White-crowned Sparrow	0	C	-	U	-
			Harris' Sparrow	0	-	-	-	V
			Dark-eyed Junco	0	A	-	A	A
			Lapland Longspur	0	U	-	U	U
			Snow Bunting	0	C	-	C	C
			Bobolink	3	C	C	C	-
			Red-winged Blackbird	3	C	C	C	R
			Eastern Meadowlark	3	C	C	C	R
			Western Meadowlark	0	-	V	-	-
			Rusty Blackbird	0	U	-	C	O
			Brewer's Blackbird	0	O	-	O	-
			Common Grackle	3	C	C	C	R
			Brown-headed Cowbird	3	A	C	A	U
			Orchard Oriole	1	R	R	-	-
			Northern Oriole	3	C	C	C	-
			Pine Grosbeak	0	E	-	E	E
			Purple Finch	3	C	C	C	E
			House Finch	3	C	C	C	C
			Red Crossbill	0	E	E	E	E
			White-winged Crossbill	0	E	-	E	E
			Common Redpoll	0	C	-	C	E
			Hoary Redpoll	0	-	-	-	O
			Pine Siskin	0	C	-	C	E
			American Goldfinch	3	C	C	C	C
			Evening Grosbeak	0	U	-	C	E

**SPECIES****Br Sp Su Fa Wi**

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**House Sparrow****3 C C C C**

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**Notes**

Published in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources by:



The Friends of Pinery Park  
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